

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

261503Z Feb 01

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ACTION AF-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AID-00	ACQ-00	CEA-01	CIAE-00	COME-00
	CTME-00	DINT-00	DODE-00	DOTE-00	WHA-00	SRPP-00	DS-00
	EB-00	EUR-00	EXIM-01	E-00	FAAE-00	FBIE-00	VC-00
	FRB-00	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00	ITC-01	LAB-01
	L-00	VCE-00	AC-01	NSAE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01	OPIC-01
	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00	ACE-00	P-00	SP-00	SSO-00
	STR-00	TRSE-00	USIE-00	BBG-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00	PRM-01
	DRL-02	G-00	NFAT-00	SAS-00	/013W		

-----CA6553 261505Z /38

FM AMEMBASSY HARARE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8296  
INFO NSC WASHDC  
DEPT OF LABOR WASHDC  
SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY  
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L HARARE 000846

SIPDIS

NSC FOR JFRAZER  
ILAB FOR RSHEPHARD  
LONDON FOR CGURNEY  
PARIS FOR BWILLIAMS  
NAIROBI FOR PFLAUMER  
PASS USAID FOR AFR/SD - DWELLER, AFR/SA - CPALMA,  
NNEWMAN, AA/AFR - VDICKSON-HORTON

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E.O. 12958: DECL 02/26/11  
TAGS: [ELAB](#) [PGOV](#) [PHUM](#) [PINR](#) [ZI](#)  
SUBJECT: ZIMBABWE LABOR FEDERATION ELECTS NEW LEADERS,  
AFFIRMS NON-PARTISAN NATURE

REFS: A. HARARE 782, B. HARARE 661, C. HARARE 612,

[D](#). HARARE 573, E. HARARE 3680

CLASSIFIED BY CHARGE D' AFFAIRES EARL M. IRVING FOR  
REASONS 1.5 (B/D).

[1](#). (U) THE ZIMBABWE CONGRESS OF TRADE UNIONS (ZCTU) FIVE-YEAR CONGRESS, HELD ON FEBRUARY 23 AND 24, RESULTED IN THE ELECTION OF A NEW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND AN AFFIRMATION THAT THE FEDERATION IS NON-PARTISAN. ALL INDICATIONS ARE THAT THE CONGRESS WENT SMOOTHLY, AND THERE WAS NO EVIDENCE OF AN OVERT EFFORT BY THE GOVERNMENT OF ZIMBABWE (GOZ) AND ZANU-PF TO DIRECTLY INFLUENCE EVENTS IN THE CONGRESS AND THE ELECTION OF THE NEW LEADERSHIP. THE FEBRUARY 26 ISSUE OF THE GOZ-CONTROLLED "THE HERALD" REPORTED THAT THE NEW PRESIDENT OF THE ZCTU, LOVEMORE MATAMBO, PROCLAIMED THAT THE LABOR FEDERATION WAS "NOT ALIGNED TO ANY POLITICAL PARTY" AND "WILL WORK WITH ANY POLITICIANS WHO ARE CONCERNED ABOUT WORKERS' WELFARE REGARDLESS OF POLITICAL AFFILIATION." THIS IS AFTER THE OUTGOING SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE ZCTU, AND PRESIDENT OF THE OPPOSITION MOVEMENT FOR DEMOCRATIC CHANGE (MDC), MORGAN TSVANGIRAI, ADDRESSED THE CONGRESS ON FEBRUARY 24 AND SAID THAT "ZCTU IS THE SOUL OF THE MDC AND IF YOU REMOVE THE SOUL, THE PARTY WILL DIE."

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[2](#). (U) THE FOLLOWING WERE ELECTED TO KEY POSITIONS IN THE ZCTU EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

= WILLARD CHIBHEBHE - SECRETARY-GENERAL  
= COLLEN GWIYO - FIRST DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL  
= MIRIAM MUKUTUMA - SECOND SECRETARY-GENERAL  
= LOVEMORE MATAMBO - PRESIDENT  
= MATILDA CHEKUDA - TREASURER

[3](#). (C) COMMENT: WHILE IT IS STILL TOO EARLY TO DETERMINE THE LONG-TERM EFFECTS OF THE CONGRESS ON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE ZCTU, THE MDC, AND ZANU-PF, OUR EARLY READING IS THAT THE PRO-MDC ELEMENT IN THE ZCTU WAS ABLE TO CARRY THE DAY. WILLARD CHIBHEBHE, WHO WAS ELECTED SECRETARY-GENERAL, THE MOST POWERFUL POSITION IN

THE EXECUTIVE, WAS MENTIONED TO US BY PRO-MDC LABOR LEADERS GIFT CHIMANIKIRE AND ISAAC MATONGO PRIOR TO THE CONGRESS AS ONE OF THEIR PREFERRED CANDIDATES FOR THAT POSITION. INDEED, ACCORDING TO SENIOR MDC ADVISOR GANDI MUDZINGWA, CHIBHEBHE SERVED AS THE MDC'S SECRETARY OF POLICY AND RESEARCH IN 1999 AND IS DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR FORMULATING MANY OF THE PARTY'S CURRENT POLICIES. HIS ELECTION IS THUS A GOOD SIGN FOR CONTINUED COOPERATION OR AT LEAST IDEOLOGICAL SUPPORT BETWEEN THE ZCTU AND THE MDC, REGARDLESS OF THE LABOR ORGANIZATION'S PROCLAIMED NEUTRALITY. THE PREVIOUS ACTING SECRETARY-  
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GENERAL, ISIDORE ZINDOGA, WHO WAS WIDELY BELIEVED TO BE PRO-ZANU-PF, WAS DEFEATED AND NOW HOLDS NO LEADERSHIP POSITION IN THE ZCTU. WE WILL BE MEETING IN THE NEAR TERM WITH OUR LABOR CONTACTS TO GLEAN THE UNION AND POLITICAL BACKGROUNDS OF THE NEW ZCTU EXECUTIVE. WE WILL ALSO SEEK A CLEARER READOUT OF WHAT THE WEEKEND'S VOTE MEANS FOR ZIMBABWE'S WORKERS, AND THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE ZCTU, THE OPPOSITION MDC, AND THE RULING ZANU-PF. END COMMENT.

IRVING

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